



AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF STATISTICS
CANBERRA

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Reference No. 6.37

WAGE RATES INDEXES : MAY 1974 (PRELIMINARY STATEMENT)

MAIN FEATURES

In May 1974, the weighted average minimum weekly wage rates increased by 7.7 per cent for adult males and by 9.2 per cent for adult females, largely owing to increases resulting from the 1974 National Wage Case and subsequent State award, etc. increases.

In the twelve months ended May 1974 the weighted average minimum weekly wage rates for Australia increased by 24.7 per cent to \$91.36 a week for adult males and by 30.4 per cent to \$76.14 a week for adult females.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

This statement contains figures of weighted average minimum weekly and hourly wage rates and index numbers for adult males and adult females for May 1974 and corresponding figures for some earlier months. More information on these statistics will appear later in the monthly bulletin *Wage Rates and Earnings* (Reference No. 6.16) which also contains explanatory notes covering definitions, scope of the statistics, etc. The May 1974 issue will contain an analysis of the effects on the indexes of the 1974 National Wage Case and subsequent State award, etc. increases.

2. The wage rates used in the compilation of the indexes are the lowest rates for a full week's work (excluding overtime) prescribed for particular occupations in awards or determinations of Federal or State industrial authorities; in collective agreements registered with these authorities; or in unregistered collective agreements where these are dominant in particular industries. Because the indexes are designed to measure movements in prescribed minimum rates of wages as distinct from salaries, those awards, etc. which relate solely or mainly to salary earners are excluded. Because of delays in the receipt of notification of changes in wage rates as well as retrospective changes to rates, figures for July 1972 and subsequent months are subject to revision. As such revisions are made they are published in the normal monthly tables of this statement.

3. The indexes are designed to measure trends in wage rates in current awards, etc. excluding the effects of changes in the relative importance of industries, awards and occupations. The weighted average wage rates shown in these tables are therefore indexes expressed in money terms, and do not purport to be actual current averages. Similarly, neither these weighted average wage rates nor the corresponding index numbers measure the relative levels of average current wage rates as between States or industries.

TABLE 1. - WEEKLY AND HOURLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES
ALL INDUSTRY GROUPS, AUSTRALIA (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; weighted average minimum hourly rates payable; and index numbers of wage rates.

End of -	Adult males (b)					Adult females (c)				
	Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates		Weekly wage rates			Hourly wage rates	
	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates \$	Annual change(d) %	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)	Wage rates (cents)	Index Nos. (1954 = 100) (e)
1973 -										
May	73.29	13.9	259.5	182.47	257.9	58.38	16.9	293.3	147.17	293.3
June	74.47	15.0	263.7	185.49	262.2	58.85	16.9	295.6	148.34	295.7
July	74.83	14.8	265.0	186.42	263.5	59.38	17.2	298.3	149.67	298.3
August	75.59	15.8	267.6	188.36	266.2	59.75	17.7	300.2	150.63	300.2
September	75.93	15.1	268.9	189.25	267.5	60.45	18.0	303.7	152.39	303.8
October	76.42	15.5	270.6	190.49	269.2	61.75	20.2	310.2	155.65	310.3
November	76.97	15.4	272.5	191.90	271.2	63.08	21.9	316.8	159.01	316.9
December	77.53	14.5	274.5	193.35	273.3	64.92	24.8	326.1	163.65	326.2
1974 -										
January	78.17	14.6	276.8	194.99	275.6	66.04	25.4	331.7	166.48	331.8
February	78.46	14.2	277.8	195.73	276.7	66.44	25.8	333.8	167.49	333.8
March	79.33	15.2	280.9	197.98	279.8	66.71	25.8	335.1	168.17	335.2
April (f)	84.82	22.8	300.3	212.08	299.8	69.74	29.8	350.3	175.81	350.4
May	91.36	24.7	323.5	227.59	321.7	76.14	30.4	382.5	191.94	382.6

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes above. (b) Excludes rural industry. Hourly rates also exclude shipping and stevedoring. The former is not included in the wage rates index and for the latter definite particulars for the computation of hourly wage rates are not available. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction. (d) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. (e) Base : Weighted average wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (f) Amendments since previous issue due principally to delays in receipt of notifications of metal trades flow-on increases.

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TABLE 2. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES, INDUSTRY GROUPS, 31 MAY 1974 (a)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements; and index numbers of wage rates.

Industry group	Rates of wage (\$)							Annual Change (b) %	Index Nos. (Base 1954 = 100) (c)
	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
Mining and quarrying (d)	122.12	88.66	109.78	88.89	81.01	92.81	109.33	37.6	387.1
Manufacturing -									
Engineering, metals, vehicles, etc.	88.26	87.86	90.95	83.54	89.00	91.90	87.94	26.3	311.4
Textiles, clothing and footwear	85.01	84.12	84.92	83.65	85.43	81.01	84.40	20.6	298.9
Food, drink and tobacco	87.05	85.42	84.29	84.78	84.06	85.45	85.63	21.6	303.2
Sawmilling, furniture, etc.	85.50	83.72	88.57	85.98	82.38	82.42	85.23	21.5	301.8
Paper, printing, etc.	88.05	93.56	94.30	88.58	95.82	85.42	90.59	15.4	320.8
Other manufacturing	85.74	87.44	90.26	85.17	84.68	80.55	86.43	21.7	306.0
All manufacturing groups	87.24	87.06	88.69	84.32	86.49	86.41	87.01	23.3	308.1
Building and construction	94.28	101.43	96.30	94.92	93.26	93.44	96.30	27.8	341.0
Railway services	91.01	86.80	86.57	90.86	86.36	92.04	88.52	30.1	313.4
Road and air transport	94.03	89.19	85.39	87.01	90.16	88.75	90.55	23.4	320.6
Shipping and stevedoring (e)	116.44	115.28	109.06	107.17	117.42	114.10	113.78	22.7	402.9
Communication	115.44	116.82	115.41	113.00	116.56	111.39	115.55	25.0	409.2
Wholesale and retail trade	93.75	90.01	88.27	86.65	85.07	84.88	90.30	22.1	319.7
Public authority (n.e.i.) and community and business services	89.95	93.00	88.44	83.32	84.77	91.67	89.40	21.9	316.5
Amusement, hotels, personal service, etc.	88.56	81.85	81.09	84.82	74.47	84.38	84.30	23.3	298.5
All industry groups (f)	92.80	90.78	91.87	88.39	88.60	90.83	91.36	24.7	323.5

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Percentage change over the same month of the previous year. (c) Base : Weighted average weekly wage rate, Australia, year 1954 = 100. (d) For mining, rates of wage used are those prescribed for the principal mining centres and include lead bonuses, etc. (e) Includes rates of wage (and value of keep) for occupations in the coastal shipping service, other than masters, officers and engineers. (f) Excludes rural industry.

TABLE 3. - WEEKLY WAGE RATES : ADULT MALES AND ADULT FEMALES, ALL GROUPS (a) (\$)

Weighted average minimum weekly rates payable for a full week's work (excluding overtime), as prescribed in awards, determinations and collective agreements.

End of -	N.S.W.	Vic.	Qld	S.A.	W.A.	Tas.	Australia		
							Federal awards, etc.	State awards, etc.	All awards, etc.
ADULT MALES (b)									
1973 - May	73.86	73.84	73.87	71.51	68.85	73.58	73.75	72.79	73.29
December 1974 -	77.91	77.29	79.75	75.07	75.63	76.51	77.12	77.97	77.53
January	78.14	78.02	81.55	75.74	76.12	76.73	77.31	79.10	78.17
February	78.53	78.28	81.65	75.92	76.51	76.91	77.52	79.47	78.46
March	79.91	78.38	83.47	76.15	76.72	77.58	78.47	80.26	79.33
April	85.79	85.19	85.01	82.57	81.24	83.01	86.73	82.76	84.82
May	92.80	90.78	91.87	88.39	88.60	90.83	92.61	90.01	91.36
ADULT FEMALES (c)									
1973 - May	59.57	58.31	56.81	56.98	54.78	57.75	56.76	59.76	58.38
December 1974 -	67.87	62.67	63.88	62.00	63.50	60.86	62.44	67.03	64.92
January	68.27	64.16	65.63	64.24	65.09	62.22	63.10	68.54	66.04
February	68.48	64.98	65.68	64.64	65.16	62.51	63.22	69.18	66.44
March	68.65	65.10	66.61	64.92	65.68	63.13	63.53	69.42	66.71
April	71.63	68.73	68.91	67.69	67.38	65.51	69.08	70.31	69.74
May	80.11	73.85	72.22	72.61	73.80	71.36	74.67	77.40	76.14

(a) Figures subject to revision. See explanatory notes on page 1. (b) Excludes rural industry. (c) Excludes rural industry; mining and quarrying; and building and construction.

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NOTE. Inquiries concerning these statistics may be made in Canberra by telephoning Mr G. Laurie on 63 9111 extension 2055 or, in each State capital, by telephoning the office of the Australian Bureau of Statistics.